

Supervisor Pam Slater-Price's

District 3 Slate

May 2007

Third District, County of San Diego

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Public Safety Remains Top Priority

County Safer Today Than 25 Years Ago...

Your risk of being a victim of violent crime in the County of San Diego declined by more than 50 percent than in 1992.

In fact, the incidence of violent crime is lower today than at any time in the past 25 years, according to statistics compiled by SANDAG, the U.S. Census and the State of California.

As Third District supervisor, I stand committed to public safety. Fundamental components of our quality-of-life include safe neighborhoods where children can run and play without fear of danger; a Sheriff's Department that is respected and trusted; and medical personnel who are trained in the latest aspects of emergency care. It is reassuring to know that, if and when a call for assistance is issued - the very best are responding.

In the past year alone, the chance of a person being a victim of crime decreased remarkably in San Diego County. The 2006 violent crime rate of 4.43 incidents per 1,000 population is the lowest in two-plus decades.

The number of incidents of domestic violence reported to law enforcement (19,886) was the lowest since 1997. And with teams targeting high-risk areas, vehicle theft also decreased, the first time in five years!

This good news is due to stepped-up, community-orientated law enforcement combined with the public - you and me! - making it harder for the bad guys to succeed. Neighborhood Watch groups, senior citizen patrols, being diligent in our daily lives ... this is how large bites have been taken out of crime!

Working Together For You

Crime against property - someone breaks into your home or business - decreased for the third consecutive year. However, property crimes are still expensive - with approximately \$293



Pilots of county emergency helicopters prepare for the upcoming fire season by practicing water-retrieval efforts.

million worth of items stolen in 2006 (vs. \$269 million the previous year). Clearly, the price of goods have gone up. Remarkably, almost \$124 million worth of stolen items were recovered (42 percent).

This again is due to the partnership of law enforcement, the business community and the citizenry who remain diligent against "great deals" found in the trunk of somebody's beat-up vehicle.

Better Days Are Ahead

Technological innovations combined with a streamlined communication system promise to bring about an even safer future. **The Board of Supervisors late last month approved an agreement to assist the City of San Diego in becoming part of the regionwide 800 megahertz emergency communication system. Already in use by the county Sheriff's Department and most municipalities, the regionwide system allows for immediate sharing of information and coordination of resources during an**

emergency, such as wildfire, earthquake or terrorist attack.

In addition, the Board of Supervisors has purchased special software linking multiple regional data-sharing systems with each other.

This system gives the Sheriff's Department the latest ability to track and target organized crime activity. No longer will gangs or crime syndicates be able to depend on breakdowns in communication between law enforcement agencies to ply their illicit activities.

Maintaining societal civility and keeping crime in check is more than adopting the latest crime-fighting gadgets.

"Dick Tracy" is still in the realm of fantasy. Good law enforcement is the combination of technology with professionals who know and care about the communities they serve. I am proud of all of our emergency responders and will do whatever possible to make sure they have the tools to keep our neighborhoods safe and secure.

News of Note

County Improves Its Green; Half-ton Of E-Waste Recycled

Working with homeowners, property owners and businesses, the County of San Diego recycled more than 500,000 pounds of hazardous waste from households in the unincorporated communities.

Other milestones reached include the recycling of more than 55,000 gallons of motor oil and the removal of 50 tons of road debris. **And, to make life a bit greener and the air cleaner, the county assisted in the planting of more than 4,500 trees since the first seedling went into the ground in 2002.**

Trade In That Lawn Mower

You can trade in that noisy, smog-producing gas lawn mower for a new, state-of-the-art electric model through a special program run by the County of San Diego and the San Diego Air Pollution Control District.

Bring your antique model to the County Administration Center on May 19 for the exchange. Please note that quantities are limited and it is first-come, first-served. The exchange begins at 8 a.m. but people begin lining up much earlier.

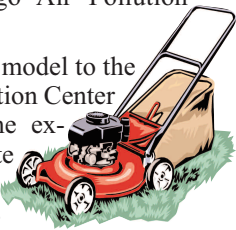
Recipients will receive a new, cordless, rechargeable electric Black & Decker mower, model CMM1000, with a two-year factory warrant and rechargeable battery that lasts for about one hour.

Bring your lawn mower, emptied of gas and oil, a photo ID, proof of San Diego residency (driver's license, utility bill, etc.) and \$150 (checks and credit cards are accepted with proper ID). Your mower must be in working condition and could be tested to verify its operational status.

Save Paper - Reservations Online

Summer is about here and space is filling up fast at county campgrounds. You make your reservations online by going to the following website:

<http://reservations.sdparks.org>



When Disaster Strikes, Preparedness Is Key

How one prepares in advance for the unexpected often determines the success of surviving an earthquake, flood or wildfire. Each household should complete a "Family Disaster Plan and Survival Guide," so that members know what steps need to be taken before, during **and** after an emergency.

The County Office of Emergency Services, which coordinates the local response to any regional disaster, offers its outline of a "Family Disaster Plan" on its website at www.ReadySanDiego.org. (It is published in four languages.)

There are tips for caring for pets, preparing a business for an emergency, and a list of items that should be included in a disaster supply kit.

More than 1.4 million copies of the plan have already been mailed to homes countywide. You can request a copy by calling (858) 565-3490.

Do not let a disaster catch your family by surprise. Members of the various agencies of the County of San Diego are ready to respond to any emergency. By calmly discussing such strategies, then reacting - if and when the time comes - with objectivity and level-headedness, your family will survive any possible crisis.



WHEEL OF HISTORY

Hands-on exhibits help preserve a culture's history. In Escondido, students and visitors learn how wheels were built and repaired during demonstrations at the Wagonworks shop, part of the Escondido History Center in Grape Day Park.



FUN IS IN BLOOM

The garden is in bloom at the Escondido Children's Museum, where I met with Executive Director Katie Ragazzi during a multi-meeting stop in Escondido. The museum is hosting a walking tour that visits the museums of downtown Escondido beginning at 10:30 a.m. May 31 at the Mingei Museum, 155 W. Grand Ave. Call (760) 233-7755 for more information.

Hodges To Get Funds For Bridge

Bicyclists and hikers alike will enjoy a new bridge over Lake Hodges as \$1.87 million in additional funding has been secured by regional leaders. The bridge has been included in the 2030 MOBILITY regional transportation plan, which outlines routes for a bicycle corridor through San Diego County.

As part of the team to raise funds for the bridge, this is good news.

Currently, bicyclists have to use the shoulders of Interstate 15 to get across the lake. The only other alternatives across the river valley are at Via de Santa Fe to the west or Bandy Canyon Road-San Pasqual Valley Road to the east.

Approval of the additional funding by SANDAG ensures the San Dieguito River Park will not lose \$2.5 million in state funding already earmarked for the project. Construction should begin in 2009.

Pet Food Recall Expands Again

Pet owners are strongly advised to check the latest list of food products containing the contaminated wheat gluten. The substance was purchased from a firm in China and was used in the production of multiple brands of pet food produced between December 2006 and January 2007.

A complete list of the brands that may contain the contaminated wheat gluten can be found at the Food and Drug Administration's website at www.fda.gov or the county vet website at www.sdcountryvet.org. More than 100 brands of pet food are on the list.



Honorees are (from left): Molly Bowman-Styles, Lisa Archibald, Mary Baum, Supervisor Pam Slater-Price, Frank Manzano and Maylin Chavez.

HEROES FOR MORE THAN ONE DAY...

Promoting healthy choices and lifestyles has always been one of my priorities. When people - especially children - make smart culinary and lifestyle choices, they contribute to society. Obesity and smoking tax society, resulting in increased costs for health care, emergency medical aid and lost productivity. This effort has not gone unrecognized. I was recently honored with a "Healthy Hero" award presented by the Combined Health Agencies. I was nominated by the San Diego chapter of the American Lung Association based on my successful efforts to ban smoking in county parks and open spaces.

Deaf Get A New Voice

County Targets Services For Hearing Impaired

A division of the county Health and Human Services Agency is often overlooked but provides life-changing services. It is the Child Welfare Services' Deaf Services Unit that debuted five years ago and today services an estimated 350,000 deaf or hard-of-hearing residents.

Before the unit's creation, the county offered limited services to deaf and hard-of-hearing clients. Outside interpreters had to be arranged or family members were relied upon to relay information, which resulted in awkward moments or an unwillingness to discuss important issues.

"This is a unit that has received great support from the Board of Supervisors and the Health and Human Services Agency," explained Cindy Shelton, who manages the north-central region. "We would not be here without their support."

The unit began with the hiring of Lynnette Miller, the county's first deaf social worker. At the time, Miller was doing most of the interaction with deaf clients.

"I started taking on cases with deaf or hard-of-hearing children or parents," she says. Slowly but surely, Miller started working with others in the agency to de-

velop specific services and programs. "We realized we needed workers that could communicate directly with clients."

Since that initial effort, three additional social workers have joined the unit. With the growth in resources, the ability to serve the community has grown as well. There are typically between 30 and 40 active cases and that number is growing as that community learns more about the services available to them.

"In December, Michele Cannon (the unit's investigator) had five referrals," said unit supervisor Susan Solis. "In January, she had 10. The word is out that we have the resources to work with them."

American Sign Language is the fourth most commonly used language in San Diego County, and Shelton stresses the unit will work with a case where anyone in the home is deaf or hard of hearing.

"If I go out as a deaf person and work with a deaf parent, they are very responsive," said Miller. "If a speaking person goes out and even if they sign fluently, there is still a trust issue there. It's the direct communication that allows the parent to come forward and use our services."



A smile on a child's face is a picture worth capturing, as seen here. One hundred and forty-eight low-income children in the Mira Mesa area are sporting big smiles today, after a check-up done during a special dental clinic that was sponsored through a Third District community projects grant that I awarded. The total value of the dental services performed that day exceeded \$10,300! One hundred and eighteen children had their teeth varnished and another 30 had sealants put in place. These services reduce the risk of dental disease that would need to be treated at a later date, often at taxpayer expense.



AROUND THE THIRD DISTRICT

The Staff of Supervisor Pam Slater-Price

- John WeilChief of Staff
- Sachiko KohatsuLand Use
- Jim GonsalvesHousing
- Erika BlackHealth & Human Services
- Anne-Marie JewelScheduling
- Frances PorterReceptionist
- Dennis C. LhotaNewsletters

Contact us at: (619) 531-5533
(800) 852-7334

Write us at: 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 335
San Diego, CA 92101

Website: www.pamslater.com

E-mail: pam.slater@sdcounty.ca.gov

E-Slate: E-Slate_editor@roadrunner.com